

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/942,606

Examiner

Arezoo Sherkat

Applicant(s)

UEMURA, TETSUYA

Art Unit

2131

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/29/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 5-11, 13, 15, 17 and 19-24.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 9/26/2006.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

CHRISTOPHER REVAK
PRIMARY EXAMINER

CR 9/20/06

Response to Amendment

This office action is responsive to Applicant's amendment received on 8/29/2006. Claims 5-10 and 19-24 have been amended. Claims 12, 14, 16, and 18 have been cancelled. Claims 5-11, 13, 15, 17, and 19-24, are pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Carl Brundidge on 9/26/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

5. (Currently Amended) A cache server set between a content server and a plurality of clients for distributing contents to the clients, based on requests sent from the clients, said content server is requested to provide contents by said clients via said cache server and in response transfers said requested contents to the clients, said cache server comprising:

an apparatus for collecting contents access situation information from the clients;
an apparatus for analyzing contents access trends based on the contents access situation information of accesses to the contents as conducted by the clients;

an apparatus for transmitting the contents access trends to an apparatus which predicts contents expected to be in demand for said clients in the future based on the contents access trends and causing the contents expected to be in demand in the future to be transmitted;

an apparatus for receiving the contents expected to be in demand in the future from the content server in advance before access requests are received from the clients;

a cache apparatus for storing the received contents; and

an apparatus for transmitting requested contents from the contents expected to be in demand in the future to the clients in accordance with the requests when received from the clients,

wherein the requested contents from the contents expected to be in demand in the future are distributed to a client only when distribution of the contents to the client is permitted, and when distribution of the contents to the client is not permitted, requesting to acquire distribution permission from a server which manages content distribution permission information,

wherein the requested contents distributed to the client having permission is encrypted and the encrypted requested contents is distributed along with a decryption key so that the client having permission can decrypt the encrypted requested contents using the decryption key upon receipt thereof.

Art Unit: 2131

7. (Currently Amended) A cache server apparatus set between a content server and a plurality of clients for distributing contents to the clients, based on requests sent from the clients, said content server is requested to provide contents by said clients via said cache server and transfers said requested contents to the clients, said cache server comprising:

an apparatus for collecting contents access situation information from the clients;

an apparatus for transmitting the contents access situation information to a server, which analyzes contents access trends based on the contents access situation information of accesses to the contents as conducted by the clients, predicting contents expected to be in demand in the future and causing the contents expected to be in demand in the future to be transmitted; and

an apparatus for receiving the contents expected to be in demand in the future from the content server in advance before access requests are received from the clients, storing the received contents, and transmitting the requested contents from the contents expected to be in demand in the future to the clients in accordance with the requests when received from the clients,

wherein the requested contents from the contents expected to be in demand in the future are distributed to a client only when distribution of the contents to the client is permitted, and when distribution of the contents to the client is not permitted, requesting to acquire distribution permission from a server which manages content distribution permission information.

wherein the requested contents distributed to the client having permission is encrypted and the encrypted requested contents is distributed along with a decryption key so that the client having permission can decrypt the encrypted requested contents using the decryption key upon receipt thereof.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus set between a server and a client for distributing contents to the client, comprising:

- an apparatus for collecting contents access situation information from the client;

- an apparatus for analyzing contents access trends based on the contents access situation information;

- an apparatus for transmitting the contents access trends to a server which predicts contents expected to be in demand in the future based on the contents access trends and transmits the contents;

- an apparatus for receiving the contents expected to be in demand in the future from the server in advance before an access request is received from the client;

- an apparatus for storing the received contents; and

- an apparatus for transmitting requested contents from the contents expected to be in demand in the future to the client in accordance with a the request when received from the client,

wherein the requested contents from the contents expected to be in demand in the future are distributed to a client only when distribution of the contents to the client is permitted, and when distribution of the contents to the client is not permitted, requesting to acquire distribution permission from a server which manages content distribution permission information,

wherein the requested contents distributed to the client having permission is encrypted and the encrypted requested contents is distributed along with a decryption key so that the client having permission can decrypt the encrypted requested contents using the decryption key upon receipt thereof,

wherein this apparatus calculates an acquisition weight based on a value obtained by multiplying the number of distributions for genre name and the number of distribution for producer by parameters, and acquires the contents from the server in decreasing order of acquisition weight.

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus set between a server and a client for distributing contents to the client, comprising:

an apparatus for collecting contents access situation information from the client;

an apparatus for analyzing content: access trends based on the contents access situation information;

an apparatus for transmitting the contents access trends to a server which predicts contents expected to be in demand in the future based on the

Art Unit: 2131

contents access trends and transmits the contents;

an apparatus for receiving the contents expected to be in demand in the future from the server in advance before an access request is received from the client;

an apparatus for storing the received contents; and

an apparatus for transmitting the requested contents from the contents expected to be in demand in the future to the client in accordance with a the request when received from the client,

wherein the requested contents from the contents expected to be in demand in the future are distributed to a client only when distribution of the contents to the client is permitted, and when distribution of the contents to the client is not permitted, requesting to acquire distribution permission from a server which manages content distribution permission information.

wherein the requested contents distributed to the client having permission is encrypted and the encrypted requested contents is distributed along with a decryption key so that the client having permission can decrypt the encrypted requested contents using the decryption key upon receipt thereof; and

an apparatus for deleting contents,

wherein this apparatus calculates a deletion weight based on the number of distributions for name, the number of distributions for genre name, the number of distributions for producer and the last distribution time, and deletes the stored contents in increasing order of the deletion weight.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus set between a server and a client for distributing contents to the client, comprising:

an apparatus for collecting contents access situation information from the client;

an apparatus for transmitting the contents access situation information to a server which analyzes contents access trends based on the contents access situation information, predicting contents expected to be in demand in the future and transmits the contents predicted; and

an apparatus for receiving the contents expected to be in demand in the future from the server in advance before an access request is received from the client, storing the received contents, and transmitting requested contents from the contents expected to be in demand in the future to the client in accordance with the request when received from the client,

wherein the requested contents from the contents expected to be in demand in the future are distributed to a client only when distribution of the contents to the client is permitted, and when distribution of the contents to the client is not permitted, requesting to acquire distribution permission from a server which manages content distribution permission information.

wherein the requested contents distributed to the client having permission is encrypted and the encrypted requested contents is distributed along with a decryption key so that the client having permission can decrypt the encrypted requested contents using the decryption key upon receipt thereof, and

wherein this apparatus calculates an acquisition weight based on a value obtained by multiplying the number of distributions for genre name and the number of distributions for producer by parameters, and acquires the contents from the server in decreasing order of the acquisition weight.

22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus set between a server and a client for distributing contents to the client, comprising:

an apparatus for collecting contents access situation information from the client;

an apparatus for transmitting the contents access situation information to a server which analyzes contents access trends based on the contents access situation information, predicting contents expected to be in demand in the future and transmits the contents predicted; and

an apparatus for receiving the contents expected to be in demand in the future from the server in advance before an access request is received from the client, storing the received contents, and transmitting requested contents from the contents expected to be in demand in the future to the client in accordance with the request when received from the client,

wherein the requested contents from the contents expected to be in demand in the future are distributed to a client only when distribution of the contents to the client is permitted, and when distribution of the contents to the client is not permitted, requesting to acquire distribution permission from a server which manages content distribution permission information.

Art Unit: 2131

wherein the requested contents distributed to the client having permission is encrypted and the encrypted requested contents is distributed along with a decryption key so that the client having permission can decrypt the encrypted requested contents using the decryption key upon receipt thereof; and

an apparatus for deleting contents,

wherein this apparatus calculates a deletion weight based on the number of distributions for name, the number of distributions for genre name, the number of distributions for producer and the last distribution time, and deletes the stored contents in increasing order of the deletion weight.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5-11, 13, 15, 17, and 19-24 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior arts of record, alone or in combination, fail to disclose a server apparatus set between a content server and a client for transmitting requested contents, expected to be in demand in the future, to the client in accordance with the request when received from a client, wherein the requested contents from the contents expected to be in demand in the future are distributed to a client only when distribution of the contents to the client is permitted, and when distribution of the contents to the client is not permitted, requesting to acquire distribution permission from a server which manages content distribution permission information, wherein the requested contents distributed to the client having permission is encrypted and the encrypted requested contents is

Art Unit: 2131

distributed along with a decryption key so that the client having permission can decrypt the encrypted requested contents using the decryption key upon receipt thereof ... in combination with other claimed limitations.

Datta discloses a Preloader configured to provide anticipatory page generation in anticipation of future requests (col. 14, lines 50-65). The profile server disclosed by Datta works in conjunction with conventional web servers and e-commerce application servers to provide hints to the page generator in terms of the actions that each user is likely to take and not in the context of providing user permissions and decryption keys to access contents (col. 10, lines 50-59 and col. 11, lines 31-39).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arezoo Sherkat whose telephone number is (571) 272-3796. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30 Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on (571) 272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2131

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A.S.



Patent Examiner
Group 2131
September 26, 2006

CHRISTOPHER REVAI
PRIMARY EXAMINER



9/26/06